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UNCLAS ROME 000473

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E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [IZ](#) [IT](#) [PREL](#) [IRAQI](#) [FREEDOM](#)

SUBJECT: ITALY SUPPORTIVE OF POWELL'S FEB. 5 UNSC PRESENTATION

REF: A. SECSTATE 31246

[1](#)B. ROME 444

[1](#)C. SECSTATE 34169

[1](#)1. (U) SUMMARY: PM BERLUSCONI ENDORSED SECRETARY POWELL'S FEB. 5 PRESENTATION AT THE SECURITY COUNCIL AND CALLED FOR THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO REMAIN UNITED AND KEEP THE PRESSURE ON SADDAM TO DISARM. WHILE SAYING THAT WAR SHOULD BE THE VERY LAST MEASURE, THE PM CONTINUES TO STATE CLEARLY THAT THE ONLY WAY FOR SADDAM TO AVOID A WAR IS TO DESTROY IRAQ'S WMDS. END SUMMARY.

[1](#)2. (U) THE FOLLOWING IS AN INFORMAL TRANSLATION OF THE GOI STATEMENT FOLLOWING THE SECRETARY'S FEB. 5 SPEECH AT THE UNSC: BEGIN TEXT:
PRIME MINISTER SILVIO BERLUSCONI EXPRESSED APPRECIATION FOR THE CONTENT OF THE SPEECH TODAY BY U.S. SECRETARY OF STATE POWELL. POWELL AUTHORITATIVELY DEMONSTRATED WITH A WEALTH OF AUDIO-VISUAL MATERIAL THAT IRAQ DID NOT COOPERATE ACTIVELY WITH THE INSPECTORS, DID NOT PROVIDE CREDIBLE EVIDENCE OF THE ELIMINATION OF CHEMICAL AND BIOLOGICAL WEAPONS OF MASS DESTRUCTION IN ITS POSSESSION, AND DID NOT PROVIDE THE CERTAINTY OF THE ACTUAL FREEZING OF HIS NUCLEAR PROGRAM. THE SECRETARY OF STATE HAS INSTEAD DEMONSTRATED THAT THE IRAQI

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REGIME HAS REPEATEDLY OBSTRUCTED THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS MISSION AND CONTINUED TO MAINTAIN A CONNECTION WITH INTERNATIONAL TERRORISM. IRAQ'S MANIFEST AND REPEATED VIOLATION OF THE UN RESOLUTIONS, WHICH WAS TODAY FURTHER DEMONSTRATED BEFORE THE SECURITY COUNCIL, CONFIRMS THE NEED FOR A RESOLUTE ATTITUDE BY THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY TO PRESERVE THE CREDIBILITY OF THE UNITED NATIONS TO PROTECT PEACE AND SECURITY IN THE WORLD. END TEXT.

[1](#)3. (SBU) FOLLOWING OUR REQUEST FOR SUPPORTING THE SECRETARY'S FEB. 5 UNSC PRESENTATION (REF B,) BERLUSCONI MADE THE FOLLOWING POINTS ON IRAQ IN A FEB. 4 PRESS CONFERENCE IN ROME WITH THE PORTUGUESE PM:
-- SADDAM HUSSEIN MUST PROVIDE EVIDENCE THAT IRAQ HAS DESTROYED OR IS DESTROYING ITS CHEMICAL WEAPONS. ONLY THEN CAN HE BE CERTAIN TO AVOID WAR.
-- AN ATTACK AGAINST IRAQ WOULD PROBABLY NOT INCREASE THE THREAT OF TERROR ATTACKS. "I THINK THAT THESE PEOPLE ALREADY HAVE THEIR REASONS FOR HATE."
-- "IF THERE WILL BE AN INTERVENTION, I HOPE THERE WILL BE A UN RESOLUTION TO LEGITIMIZE THAT INTERVENTION."
-- IF SADDAM HUSSEIN WERE FREE OF FAULT, IT WOULD BE EASY FOR HIM TO SAY WHAT HAPPENED TO HIS CHEMICAL WEAPONS. THIS IS WHY IRAQ HAS TO STOP PRETENDING IT IS HELPING THE INSPECTORS. IT HAS THE OBLIGATION TO SAY WHERE THESE WEAPONS ARE.
-- NATO HAS GUARANTEED YEARS AND YEARS OF PEACE TO THE WORLD, HENCE OUR "GRATITUDE." "WE MUST HAVE THE COURAGE TO SAY THAT DURING THE LAST 60 YEARS WE HAVE LIVED AT THE EXPENSE OF AMERICAN TAXPAYERS. IT IS THANKS TO THEM THAT WE ARE FREE FROM DICTATORSHIPS."
-- "THE SITUATION IS SERIOUS, WE ARE NOT HIDING OUR HEAD UNDER THE SAND. WE WANT PEACE, BUT WE ALSO WANT TO DEFEND OUR POPULATIONS FROM TERRORISM."
-- THE CHOICE OF WAR IS FOR SADDAM TO MAKE. "HE MUST START TO COOPERATE SERIOUSLY WITH THE INSPECTORS. SADDAM HUSSEIN HAS THE CHOICE OF WHETHER TO OPEN UP TO THE INSPECTORS OR TO ACCEPT EXILE AND AN IMMUNITY GUARANTEED BY A FURTHER UN RESOLUTION. IF HE WILL NOT MAKE THIS CHOICE, I THINK IT WILL BE DIFFICULT NOT TO INTERVENE."
-- THERE IS NO NEED TO FIND THE SMOKING GUN TO DRAFT ANOTHER UN RESOLUTION AND LEGITIMIZE A WAR AGAINST IRAQ. PASSIVE RESISTANCE ON SADDAM'S PART AND UNWILLINGNESS TO COOPERATE WOULD BE ENOUGH TO ATTACK.
-- ON ITALY'S AVAILABILITY ON IRAQ, IT WILL BE TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, LOGISTIC SUPPORT AND MILITARY POLICE DUTIES TO GUARANTEE SECURITY AFTER THE WAR.

[1](#)4. (SBU) BERLUSCONI IS SCHEDULED TO APPEAR BEFORE THE CHAMBER OF DEPUTIES AND THE SENATE IN ROME FEB. 6 AT 1600 LOCAL TIME. HE IS EXPECTED TO ONCE AGAIN ENDORSE THE SECRETARY'S PRESENTATION AT THE UNSC FEB.5. HE IS ALSO EXPECTED TO SAY THAT A SECOND UN RESOLUTION WOULD BE NEEDED TO "FULLY LEGITIMIZE" A MILITARY INTERVENTION AGAINST IRAQ. BERLUSCONI IS EXPECTED TO SAY THAT ITALY HAS NOT BEEN ASKED TO DEPLOY COMBAT FORCES TO PARTICIPATE IN ANY POSSIBLE MILITARY ACTION BUT WOULD PROVIDE PERSONNEL AND RESOURCES FOR HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE, LOGISTICAL SUPPORT, AND MILITARY POLICE TO GUARANTEE SECURITY AFTER THE WAR.

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